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2 **ABSTRACT**

3       An implementation is described herein, which facilitates a fast channel  
4 change by receiving and decoding a unicast acquisition media stream that  
5 corresponds to a soon-to-be-requested target multicast media stream. It does this  
6 before requesting the target multicast media stream of the new channel. Once the  
7 transmission of the unicast stream is caught up with the multicast stream, this  
8 implementation splices from the unicast acquisition stream to the target multicast  
9 media stream. This abstract itself is not intended to limit the scope of this patent.  
10 The scope of the present invention is pointed out in the appending claims.  
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